

Marion, the McDowell County seat, was named for South Carolina's Francis Marion, a farmer and Revolutionary War general. McDowell County, formed in 1842, was named for Joseph McDowell who fought at Kings Mountain and was a member of Congress. Another beautiful (and close) scenic byway is Black Mountain Rag (pg. 41), which begins on N.C. 9 just south of Exit 64 on I-40.



Length: 33 miles
Drive Time: 45 minutes
Counties: Cleveland, Rutherford and McDowell

